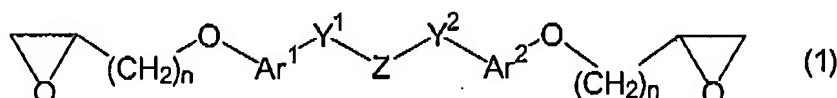


Amendments to the Claims

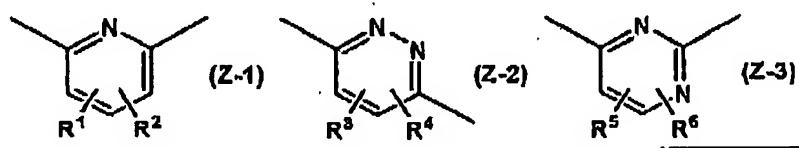
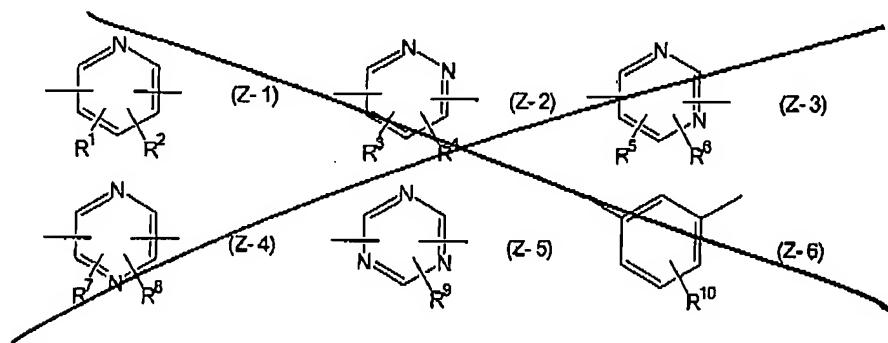
1. (Currently amended) An epoxy compound of formula (1):



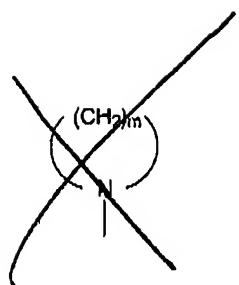
wherein  $n$  represents an integer of 1 to 4,

the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group may have inserted  $-O-$ , or  $-N(R')$ , between the methylene groups, wherein  $R'$  represents a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-18}$  alkyl group;

$Z$  represents any one of divalent groups of the following general formulas (Z-1) to (Z-6) (Z-3):

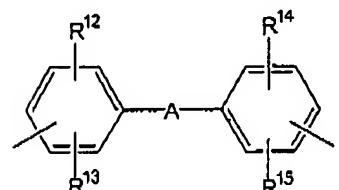


wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$ .  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom, a  $C_{1-18}$  alkyl group, an amino group substituted with one or two  $C_{1-18}$  alkyl groups, or a cyclic amino group of the following formula:

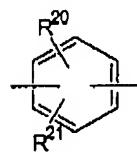
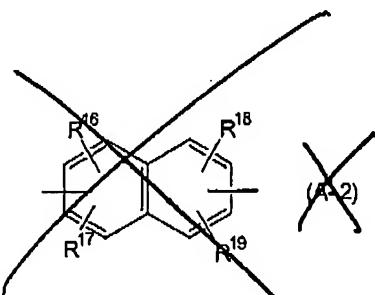


wherein  $m$  represents an integer of 4 to 12, and one methylene group or two or more not neighboring methylene groups of the  $C_{1-12}$  alkyl group or groups as defined in connection with  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  or  $R^{10}$ , and of the cyclic amino group, may be replaced with  $O$ ,  $NH$ ,  $N(R'')$  or  $S$ , wherein  $R''$  represents a  $C_{1-12}$  alkyl group, atom or a  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl group.

$Ar^1$  and  $Ar^2$  are the same or different and represent any one of groups is a group of the following formulas (A-1) to (A-3) formula (A-1), and  $Ar^2$  is a group of the following formula (A-1) or (A-3):

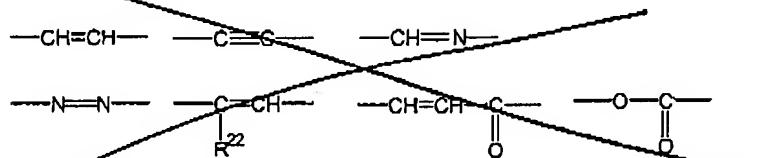


(A-1)



(A-3)

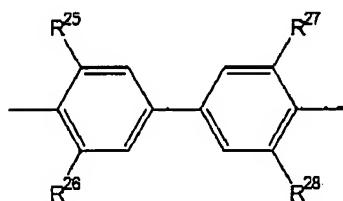
wherein A represents a single bond and or any one group selected from the group consisting of:



wherein  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{13}$ ,  $R^{14}$ ,  $R^{15}$ ,  $R^{16}$ ,  $R^{17}$ ,  $R^{18}$ ,  $R^{19}$ ,  $R^{20}$ ,  $R^{21}$  and  $R^{22}$   $R^{20}$  and  $R^{21}$  are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a  $C_{1-8}$ -alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{1-8}$  alkoxy group, a cyano group, or a nitro group,

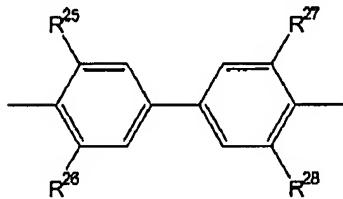
$Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  are the same or different and each represent a single bond,  $-O-$ ,  $-S-$ , or  $-Si(R^{23})(R^{24})-$ , wherein  $R^{23}$  and  $R^{24}$  are the same or different and represent independently a lower-alkyl group or a phenyl group.

2. (Original) The epoxy compound according to claim 1, wherein  $Ar^1$  and  $Ar^2$  in formula (1) are the same or different and represent independently a group of the following formula:



wherein  $R^{25}$ ,  $R^{26}$ ,  $R^{27}$  and  $R^{28}$  are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

3. (Original) The epoxy compound according to claim 1, wherein  $Ar^1$  and  $Ar^2$  in formula (1) represent the same group of the following formula:



wherein  $R^{25}$ ,  $R^{26}$ ,  $R^{27}$  and  $R^{28}$  are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

4. (Previously presented) An epoxy composition, which comprises the epoxy compound as defined in claim 1 and a curing agent.

5. (Original) The epoxy composition according to claim 4, wherein the curing agent is an amine-type curing agent or a phenol type curing agent.

6. (Previously presented) A cured epoxy resin product obtained by curing the epoxy composition as defined in claim 4.

7. (Previously presented) A prepreg obtained by impregnating or coating a substrate with the epoxy composition of claim 4 and then semi-curing the epoxy composition.

8. (Previously presented) An epoxy composition, which comprises the epoxy compound as defined in claim 2 and a curing agent.

9. (Previously presented) An epoxy composition, which comprises the epoxy compound as defined in claim 3 and a curing agent.

10. (Previously presented) A cured epoxy resin product obtained by curing the epoxy composition as defined in claim 5.

11. (Previously presented) A prepreg obtained by impregnating or coating a substrate with the epoxy composition of claim 5 and then semi-curing the epoxy composition.